

16 Mm. Competition Irksome

BEATING BACK THE BEASTS

"The Germans destroyed everything they could. . . . They burned everything that would burn, blew up schools, drugstores, hospitals. Now they are reaping what they sowed in the cold ruins, without fresh water, hiding from the sun."

In those few words from a report by a war correspondent of the Russian Army Newspaper, Red Star, you have an eloquent picture of the condition of life in the land of our ally, Russia.

The Germans deserve what they are getting—and more. What they are getting is plenty—and they'll get more. The Russians will see to that.

"Today those of them who remain alive," the correspondent wrote, "are dug in deep under the earth or scurrying in concealment among the stone ruins. . . . They sit, nibbling their food, in utter blackness beneath the homes and factories they ruined."

How like beasts! Yet, what else could you call them? The Russian soldiers and civilians, at a price almost beyond human comprehension, are beating back the beasts or destroying them. The marauders thought to turn to us when they were through with the Russians.

The Russians need our help against them. Not to help is to refuse to defend your home. That is what the Russians are doing for you every minute.

Send your contribution now to your local chairman of the Motion Picture Committee of the Aid to Russia Fund, or to the general chairman, Herb Allen, 21 Dundas Square, Toronto.

Loose Selling and Exhibiting Draw Interest of Operators

The increasing number of 16 mm. showings in halls and travelling theatres throughout the Dominion has alarmed 35 mm. exhibitors and organized protests seem likely in the near future. A number of

exhibition associations have already concerned themselves with the growing competition. The Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries has long been dissatisfied with parish hall competition in that province. The Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario is studying the prob-

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Fitzgibbons On Pic Biz and War

"In the Canadian people's all-out war effort only those industries which can justify their existence in a war economy survive," said J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Can. Corp., in a recent statement requested by several newspapers. "Motion pictures are definitely a key industry because the morale of a people is a mighty force vital to all for the

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'Miniver' Wins USA Critics' Poll

The best picture of 1942, according to the vote cast in the USA poll of radio and press cinema critics, is MGM's "Mrs. Miniver." It won by a vote of 55 over Warner Bros.' "King's Row" in the 21st annual "Ten Best Pictures Poll," which is conducted by Film Daily, an American publication.

"Mrs. Miniver" got the nods of 490 of the 524 press critics and

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Karlan Is Pappy

The cigars were on Sid Karlan, manager of the Victory, Toronto, last week. He acquired a 7½ pound boy. Mrs. Karlan is the former Ruth Axler.

Esquire Films Moves

Esquire Films has moved from 25 Dundas Square to the Film Exchange Building, 277 Victoria St., Toronto.

This Paper Plans Canadian Film Poll

This publication is preparing an annual Canadian poll to determine the 10 biggest boxoffice attractions and the 10 most popular male and female stars for the Dominion, based on the activities of the 1942-1943 season. Exhibitors and movie and radio critics will receive ballots and return envelopes in the mail. The bal-

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The Shadows March

Believe it or leave it, friend, the blast that blew up another Axis armament factory may have been the smile of Lamarr, the quirks of Costello or the fast-moving feet of Fred Astaire.

Honestly, the boys marching into Berlin, if that great day is rainy, may bear on their backs the leers of Lugosi, the sneers of Ciannelli and the tears of Bette Davis.

A flight of fancy? No. Old movie film scrap, on which are recorded the things mentioned above, is a compound of nitric acid and cotton. Nitric Acid is used for explosives.

Today, because of the rubber shortage, pyroxylin is used as a waterproof surface for army raincoats. It's a nitro-cellulose product, derived from cotton and nitric acid — chemically the same compound as movie film.

Old film is used to make shoelace ends in war as in peace. You're probably wearing some right now.

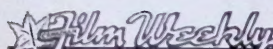
The faces, physiognomies, moods and passions that captured the hearts and stirred the emotions of your patrons are the inseparable companions, in one way or another, of our soldiers during the great struggle for freedom. In this strange world not only do the stars serve but also their shadows.

There's no way of knowing exactly but the blast that will blow Hitler and his mob to Hell—if it will have them—may have passed through your hands between the time it left Hollywood and reached Naziland.

It's worth the chance. So save that scrap film.

Gene Autry

The terrific demand of Canadian and USA exhibitors has caused Republic to reissue eight Gene Autry smash hits, with new prints, advertising, etc., among them such standout moneymakers as MEXICALI ROSE, OLD BARN DANCE and SOUTH OF THE BORDER. None of them are dated in any way. These will be in addition to the newest films of Sgt. Gene Autry, now of the USArmy. PLAY GENE AUTRY FOR GREATER PROFITS!



Vol. 8, No. 4 Jan. 20, 1943
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Address all communications—The Managing Editor,
 Canadian Film Weekly, 21 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada.
 Published by Film Publications of Canada, Ltd., 5th Floor, 21 Dundas Square,
 Toronto, Ont., Canada. Phone ADelaide 4110. Price 5 cents each or \$2.00 per year.
 Entered as Second Class Matter

The Boys in the Booths

Most interesting news of the last week was the amalgamation of the IATSE in Canada and the National Union of Projectionists. It means that exhibitors will not be able to trade elsewhere when it comes to labor bargaining, since the number of non-union projectionists are few.

For those who look at this situation adversely, they can take comfort in the fact that jurisdictional disputes, in which the exhibitor was often the innocent spectator who got clouted, have ended. Union men picketing union houses and adding to the confusion of the public will be a thing of the past.

The projectionists, incidentally, play a considerable part in the war effort of the motion picture industry and receive little credit. They contribute personally and their locals make group donations to each worthy cause. The operators donate their services gratis at benefit shows on their day off, along with other theatre staffmen, and often operate machines at hall showings where the proceeds go to war effort.

They play their part independently, since they are not represented on the Motion Picture Pioneers War Services. We think it's time they were, if only as an example of industry friendliness.

A Canadian Film Poll

This periodical has set the machinery of its annual Canadian poll going. The idea is to determine the 10 best boxoffice attractions of the 1942-43 season and the 10 best male and female stars for Canada. You'll be receiving a ballot, which includes a list of the eligible pictures. Your booking sheet will tell you anything else you want to know.

The basis of the poll will be those pictures released between December 1st, 1941, and November 30th, 1942. We are using these dates so that these films will have had time to play your theatres.

Last year, too busy with reorganizing this paper, we passed it up. From now on, however, it will be an annual feature.

England has its poll and so has the United States. Canada should have one. We have distinct tastes. For instance, there are more English pictures shown here than in the United States and these may be an important factor in determining the tastes of the public.

Press and radio critics will also be given an opportunity to state their preferences. The findings will be issued to the news and trade press, as well as to radio commentators.

Canada, now more than ever, prefers to express its own ideas—and through its own mediums. We solicit your cooperation to make the Canadian Poll a success.

Toronto Star Grants Theatre Directory

As a substitute for the list of coming attractions which it dropped from its Saturday edition, the Toronto Daily Star has agreed to carry a theatre directory. The directory gives the names of features and theatre.

Protests resulted when the Star

dropped show readers of smaller houses as part of its paper-saving plan. Syd Taube of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners Association of Ontario and Jack Melzer of Premier Operating, speaking for the trade, made the Star see the light.

Exhibits Protest 16 M. Competition

(Continued from Page 1)
 lem in its territory.

British Columbia has a law forbidding the showing of 16 mm. films for admission charges within 10 miles of a licensed theatre. Until recently this was more or less observed throughout Canada. The present situation grew largely out of the war, 16 mm. editions of Hollywood feature films having been increased to meet army camp needs. These, having served their purpose, are moving into other hands and providing competition.

The spread of NFB shorts is being watched keenly. Made with public funds, new avenues of exhibition are being opened for them everywhere. Formerly confined to rural areas, plans for showings in cities have been made and some theatre operators feel that they are stepping beyond the bounds of cinematic education quietly and under fine auspices, the threat of competition growing.

National Film Board shorts are being shown in 1,300 rural communities by means of 60 travelling theatres. Public and private bodies are co-operating with them to provide facilities and audiences. Film rental libraries of 16 mm. size shorts are being established in cities, the fee being 25 cents per reel.

A free projection service is being developed for Junior Chambers of Commerce, Kiwanis International and other service groups. Private projector owners are putting their equipment at the service of the board.

Many of the films are of a purely educational nature, dealing with nutrition, technique, etc., while others are exactly the same as those shown in professional places of entertainment. That licensed theatres provide a maximum running time for NFB shorts has never been disputed but rather referred to proudly.

Exhibitors want the showings of 16 mm. shorts confined to defined limits. The present free-lance style of distribution and exhibition is decidedly unsatisfactory.

Bill Risewick Again Heads Kennel Club

W. J. Risewick of Film Lab was re-elected president of the Canadian Kennel Club Incorporated at its annual meeting in Toronto last week. He's famed for his prize-winning pooches.

Rouse Into RCAF

Andy Rouse of Odeon Theatres head office has joined the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Fitzgibbons On Pic Biz and War

(Continued from Page 1)
 production of the material necessary for war and because proper relaxation will make the work hours of all peoples more productive.

"Motion pictures are, happily, not only a stimulus but an art that is shared by all peoples and the images on the screen and the reproduction of voices and music through the medium of sound transmission has an impact on the listener that plays upon the whole scale of human emotions.

"The Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee has earned the recognition of the Canadian government through the assistance given the bond sale drives in which Famous Players and many other theatres turned over for bond purchases the entire receipts of at least one week in each theatre. Aside from the subscriptions made by the theatres the Canadian motion picture distributors subscribed for \$750,000 worth of bonds in the last drive.

"Famous Players and many other theatre owners donated without charge the use of theatres for meetings and shows to be held for the sale of bonds. It is interesting to note that the majority of personalities featured on Victory Loan broadcasts were film stars, all of whom came to Canada to give their services without fee.

"Famous Players have supported and given the free use of their theatres in a Coast-to-Coast campaign to launch the Air Cadet League of Canada. At present we have turned over without charge to the Canadian Army the use of one of our theatres to produce the coming army show under the direction of Jack Arthur whose services have been loaned to the War Department by Famous Players.

"We expect to be most helpful in the salvage campaigns, particularly for fats which are so urgently needed now, and for scrap material such as metal and rubber.

"We know our whole industry will continue to make its fine contribution in its reflection and furtherance of the way of life we have all enjoyed and which the flower of our men and women are at this moment fighting to save. Famous Players has dedicated without reservation our properties, our manpower and our ability, not only to community service, but to the whole-hearted and full support of our government executives in the war effort."



IT'S ALWAYS
FAIR WEATHER
WHEN GOOD
SHOWMEN
AND GOOD
SHOWS GET
TOGETHER!

THE Paramount Picture



EXTRA
PLAYING TIME IS
THE ORDER OF
THE DAY WITH
PARAMOUNT
PRODUCT!

VOL. 1

The Lowdown on the Production and Distribution of the Best Shows in Town!

NO. 8

'Rhythm' Certainly Star-Spangled!

'PALM BEACH STORY' WILL RING REGISTER

Music to Exhibitors' Ears

"Palm Beach Story" is the latest Preston Sturges comedy relief tonic for frayed nerves. Filled to overflowing with laughs a la Sturges, "Palm Beach Story" is one of Paramount's best contributions to the run of escapist pictures demanded at the boxoffice these days.

With Claudette Colbert, Joel McCrea, Mary Astor and Rudy Vallee, "Palm Beach Story" is packed with all the things they love on the screen . . . screaming slapstick, sly fun and sly-er romance . . . sheer escapism with Claudette wooing the richest man in the world in America's favorite winter dream-playground.

Here's what a few of the papers think about "Palm Beach Story" in their own words: "offers a lot of fun . . . situations that cause the joyous lifting of an eyebrow." (Film Daily); "Screwball comedy has plenty of names to sell . . . and plenty of Preston Sturges touches. Cast is tops." (Exhibitor); "A sparkling comedy . . . a sure-fire box-office success . . . starts off in high gear and doesn't let up until the fade-out." (M. P. Daily); "Sophisticated, witty and absolutely screwball. There is enough drawing power in its top names to assure profitable returns." (Showmen's Trade Review); "comedy delivers laughs on land, in the air, at sea and on rails. The result is entertainment . . . a field day for comedy performances by a dozen characters . . ." (Boxoffice); ". . . here is fine-flavoured comedy with a bang-up story and a plenitude of gags to energy one of Paramount's best pictures of the season . . ." (Variety).

"Happy Go Lucky" Makes Debut

Paramount's new technicolor musical, "Happy Go Lucky," will make its Canadian debut at the giant six-thousand seater in Camp Borden, Ontario. Paramount in Canada has donated the film to the Aid for Russia Campaign and all the proceeds from the picture will go to this very worthy cause. Gayety is the underlying theme of this gala musical bringing to-

NY Run Ruins All Records

Paramount's "Star-Spangled Rhythm" is certainly rhythmic and decidedly star-spangled. Practically every "name" on the Paramount lot appears in the film because the locale is the Paramount lot.



"SWEATER, SARONG AND A PEEK-A-BOO BANG"

—Paulette Goddard, Dorothy Lamour and Veronica Lake get together for a frothy session of fun-poking in Paramount's star-studded, "Star Spangled Rhythm." They sing a hilarious little ditty entitled, "A Sweater, A Sarong and a Peek-a-Boo Bang." Virtually the entire star-strength of the Paramount lot is represented in the new comedy with music.

gether a sparkling cast headed by Mary Martin, Dick Powell, Eddie Bracken, Betty Hutton, sensational new comedy star, Rudy Vallee and Mabel Paige. The bright new songs of this rollicking comedy were written by Frank Loes-

er and Jimmy McHugh and sung by Mary Martin, Betty Hutton, Powell and Vallee, and scores of beautiful girls will enhance the colorful settings. Release date for "Happy Go Lucky" is set for April 23rd.

"Star-Spangled Rhythm" bowed into the Paramount Theatre, New York City, on the heels of "Road to Morocco." When Paramount's "Holiday Inn" arrived at the Paramount, it broke the house record. When "Road to Morocco" entered the scene on the heels of "Inn" it in turn broke the record just established by its predecessor. Now along comes "Star-Spangled Rhythm" and breaks the Record made by "Morocco."

And not just in United States alone is "Road to Morocco" a record breaker. The opening day at the Imperial, Toronto, saw fifteen thousand people passing into a thirty-one hundred house. In Vancouver, B.C., the Capitol, a twenty-one hundred house, accommodated ten thousand people. Need we go any further? Suffice to say that "Road to Morocco" went "blitzing" its way across Canada: Capitol, Ottawa; Capitol, Halifax; Palace, Montreal; Capitol, Saskatoon; Capitol, Edmonton; Capitol, Victoria, etc., etc., etc. Since "Road to Morocco" smashed records all across Canada, it follows that "Star-Spangled Rhythm" will set up new records that will certainly take some breaking.

As a sample of the marquee selling power that "Star-Spangled Rhythm" will bring to the box-office of your theatre, look at some of the names that appear in the film:

Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour, Paulette Goddard, Veronica Lake, Ray Milland, Vera Zorina, Mary Martin, Fred MacMurray, Franchot Tone, Dona Drake, Marjorie Reynolds, Susan Hayward, "Rochester," and dozens of others including C. B. deMille and Preston Sturges. All the above names appear as themselves. Those who interpret the part of others include: Eddie Bracken, Betty Hutton, Walter Abel and Victor Moore.

This Paper Plans Canadian Film Poll

(Continued from Page 1.)

Jots will contain instructions and a list of pictures released between December 1st, 1941, and November 30, 1942. This will allow time for the pictures distributed during that period to have had circulation. The poll will close early in February. A check of the booking lists of each theatre will provide any other information necessary to the exhibitor.

Canada has distinct tastes. Canadian favorites are not necessarily the same as those of other lands. The United States and Great Britain both hold polls of this nature. British stars are popular here and Old Country films receive a wide distribution. The popularity of George Formby, for instance, is greater in Canada than in the United States.

There is a growing national consciousness which has been accentuated by the achievements of our country in the war. Canadians are showing a preference for expressing themselves in their own way through their own mediums. Public interest in motion pictures is as great in Canada as anywhere in the world and a poll of our preferences should prove as popular here as elsewhere.

Start thinking about your best bets of the '41-'42 season and do your checking up now. Then mark your ballot and enclose it in the stamped and addressed envelope.

Gal Heads Republic Story Department

Frances Manson has succeeded Francis P. Langton as story editor of Republic. Langton has gone into the army. Miss Manson was with Columbia's story department for seven years and with Sam Goldwyn for two. Republic is replacing inducted men with women wherever possible.

Montgomery, Fox, To Check Radio Ads Here

Bob Montgomery, head of 20th Century-Fox radio advertising, was in Toronto checking up on the Canadian situation. Sam Glazer of the Fox Adsales department had him in tow.

Montgomery revealed that his company had an increasing appreciation of radio as an advertising medium for motion pictures. Claiming that charges of Hollywood prejudice towards radio were nonsense, he pointed out that in the early days many studios owned stations, which they have since sold. These, had motion pictures wished to control radio, would have been retained.



Skouras vs. Fletcher

Readers will recall the communications printed in this column from J. H. Fletcher of the Hollyburn Theatre, Hollyburn, British Columbia. Mr. Fletcher raised over \$7,000 for the relief of Greece through Sunday shows, then stopped when he became convinced that the Nazis were keeping the shipments or were withdrawing an equivalent amount of food and goods. He has been carrying on an active campaign to end such shipments.

Now comes the announcement of Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox and head of the Greek War Relief Association, that Canada and the United States have shipped 80,000 tons of foodstuffs, plus medical supplies and concentrated vitamin units, in the last nine months. There are now eight Swedish ships regularly engaged in transporting from Canada to Greece monthly allotments of 15,000 tons of wheat, 3,000 tons of dried vegetables, 100 tons of powdered milk, and varying amounts of medical supplies. The wheat shipments assure 3,000,000 Greeks of seven ounces of bread each every day.

A joint Swedish-Swiss Commission of the International Red Cross is administering Greek Relief and 550 persons are employed in its Athens offices to see that the supplies reach those for whom they are intended.

"We must not deceive ourselves," says Mr. Skouras, "that what we are able to send now is anything but a pitiable part of the total needs. At least they are enough to keep alive a ray of hope among the heroic Greek people."

However, Mr. Fletcher, a veteran of the last war who is noted for his service to worthy causes, doesn't believe that any but the enemy benefits from the shipments. Perhaps Mr. Skouras can convince him.

It Could Be

You've all heard about the producer who keeps people waiting almost forever. This habit of one of them, here known as Roscoe McQuonk, has spawned a legend.

McQuonk sent for a child star named Dickie Coy. When the kid arrived word was sent out of the inner sanctum that he was to wait.

Some 75 years later wreckers came to demolish the old building, which had remained unused since the studio moved inland in a hurry in case of a Jap invasion of California. Except for cobwebs and dust the place was just as it used to be.

Picture the amazement of the workmen when they came upon an ancient graybeard sitting in one of the outer offices.

"What," one burst out, "are you doing here?"

"Me?" was the answer. "Why, I'm Dickie Coy, the child star."

Mr. McQuonk asked me to wait. I'm still waiting."

Singe, You Sinners!

"Let's keep religion out of this," I heard one many say to another the other day. "When I was a young man I got into an argument over religion and my father said to me: 'Never quarrel with another man about that. Every man has a right to go to hell in his own way!'"

The Lowe Down

Ruth Lowe, the Toronto pretty who wrote "I'll Never Smile Again," dropped in the other day. Percy Kilbride sings a few lines of the song in "George Washington Slept Here." Ruth explained that Warners paid for the use of it by the line and that she sat through the first showing of the picture rooting for him to keep on singing.

Do you know that oft-printed story of the Australian bush natives who travelled a week through the jungle to see a movie, then went home disappointed? In 1936 the now-vanished Canadian Magazine carried a short story called "The Movies Come to Gull Point" by Will R. Bird. It was the story of Canadian fishermen who sailed six miles through ice floes and storms and the same distance back to see a movie. Small literary world, isn't it?

Miniver' Wins USA Critics' Poll

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of 65 of the 68 radio checker-uppers.

Second place in the race for critical laurels in the 21st yearly symposium went to 20th Century-Fox's magnificent "How Green Was My Valley," produced by Col. Darryl F. Zanuck and directed by Com. John Ford, which polled an even 500 ballots. "Mrs. Miniver" and "Valley" too were early leads and the two pictures fought it out until the final ballots had been tabulated and audited. The polls closed on December 31.

The other eight outstanding 1942 features, as determined in the pioneer national contest, in order of selection, follow:

"King's Row," "Wake Island," "Pride of the Yankees," "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "One Foot in Heaven," "Suspicion," "Woman of the Year" and "The Pied Piper."

Under the contest rules, only features released for exhibition between November 1, 1941, and October 31, 1942, were eligible. In recent years, a further point of eligibility has specified general release. The fact that some companies no longer set general release dates and others give pictures extensive bookings prior to general release made it advisable to waive the general release requirements.

The winning entry, "Mrs. Miniver," was produced by Sidney Franklin and directed by William Wyler. Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon and Teresa Wright were the stars of the film, which was based on a book by Jan Struther.

Diplomatic Preem for 'Yankee Doodle'

"Yankee Doodle Dandy," Warner ace musical, gets its official Canadian sendoff at the Capitol Theatre, Ottawa, on Thursday evening, Jan. 21. The affair will be a "Diplomatic Premiere" with the United States Minister to Canada, the Hon. J. Pierrepont Mofat, host to a group of leading diplomatic personages resident in the Dominion Capital.

At 8:45 Eastern War Time on Sunday evening, Jan. 17, the James Cagney musical will receive a coast-to-coast radio salute by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with a program entitled "The Story of a Song—'Over There'." The show will be produced by J. Frank Willis and will originate in Toronto.

Digest of Reviews

Republic Seeks Worst Song Title

The oddest quest of the year is the search for the worst song title, which is needed for the title of a John Carroll tune in "Hit Parade of 1943." Already turned in are such efforts as "I Hate to Be Late at the Gate With Kate," "When the Century Plant Blooms Again," "My Girl Is Blue With Eyes to Match," "I Love Daniel, the Cocker Spaniel," and "Basil Is Nasal, But Knute Is Cute."

Director Albert S. Rogell isn't satisfied. He thinks someone can do worse than that.

In the picture Carroll plays a fast-talking, tune-thieving songwriter. The title is needed for one of his own songs.

Republic has assigned Judy Clark, 18-year-old starlet, a role in the Joe E. Brown-Judy Canova comedy, "Chatterbox."

Miss Clark is a singer and dancer, and was discovered on Broadway when performing with Ray Heatherton's orchestra.

Republic has purchased "Gone With the Draft," hilarious novel of a rookie's experiences. It was authored by Park Kendall.

Studio officials announced that ten of Hollywood's leading comedians would be signed for roles in the comedy.

The King of the Cowboys, Roy Rogers, drew 400,000 spectators to the Madison Square Garden Rodeo. This is a new record, Garden officials announced.

Arrest of Soldier Prevents Movie Fire

Pte. M. T. Maher, of Montreal, was placed under arrest in Halifax, N.S., charged with attempted arson after another soldier said he saw Maher drop a lighted cigarette butt into a mail box in the Knights of Columbus hostel here.

The attempt to fire the hostel, a building similar to the one at St. John's, Nfld., which burned last month with the loss of 99 lives, was said to have taken place on December 19, at a time when 500 people were viewing a motion picture in the K. of C. hall.

The manager of the hostel and soldier told military authorities they had seen the Montreal private stuff the burning cigarette into the mail box.

COMMANDOS STRIKE AT DAWN (Columbia)

Filmed on Vancouver Island with assistance of the Canadian Commandos, this film follows the course of Allied resistance by the Underground to the military attack of the Commandos on Norway. Starting off easily, it suddenly picks up and the final reel becomes a real shocker, one that will make the audience sit up sharply with eyes popping. The attack of the Commandos makes all previous presentations of the same kind seem tame and provides a preview of what awaits the Nazis.

The early part of the film shows Norway prior to England's entry into the war and the growing threat of Nazi invasion. Then the invaders come and bewilderment turns to hard and clever resistance. Led by Paul Muni, the villagers carry on guerrilla warfare in the face of executions. After discovering a secret airdrome in which a mass bombing of England is being prepared, Muni gathers the fighters and they escape, reaching England in time to warn the military, which prepared a Commando raid. Muni accompanies the soldiers.

Muni is great in his first young role in a long time and Anna Lee, as his sweetheart, is very attractive. Lillian Gish, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Robert Foote, Rosemary DeCamp, Alexander Knox and Rod Cameron are in the strong supporting cast.

"Commandos" is sure of a fine reception everywhere, particularly in Canada.

EYES OF THE UNDERWORLD (Universal)

A good mobster story about a police chief whose past causes him to quit the post and run down a bad gang of auto thieves. Lon Chaney plays his aide and Wendy Barrie his sweetheart-secretary. Young Billy Lee appears as the son of Richard Dix, who plays the chief, and Marc Lawrence is the gangster. There's plenty of shooting.

HENRY ALDRICH GETS GLAMOR (Paramount)

A funny addition to the series. This time Henry, who is now Jimmy Lydon, is a sucker for a publicity-seeking film star and complicates his father's political chances. The same familiar faces are here—John Littel, Diana Glynn, Vaughan Glaser and Olive Blakeney. Frances Gifford plays the star.

JOHNNY DOUGHBOY (Republic)

This might easily roll up surprising business, since it's full of the kids you used to love and presents them all in sympathetic roles. A group of ex-kid stars who have slipped out of the limelight try to get back in by getting up a canteen show. They want Jane Withers, who has developed into a star, to play the lead but Jane is selfish. Jane reforms and the kids are happy.

The youngsters and teen-aged in the picture are Bobby Breen, Baby Sandy, Alfalfa Switzer, Spanky McFarland, Butch and Buddy, Cora Sue Collins, Robert Coogan and Grace Costello.

The older section consists of Henry Wilcoxon as a playwright on whom Withers has a crush, Patrick Brook, William Demarest, Ruth Donnelly, Etta McDaniel and Joline Westbrook. It's certainly well-staffed and highly entertaining.

PLUTO AND THE ARMADILLO (RKO—Mickey Mouse)

Probably a prelude to the film results of Walt Disney's recent South American trip, this shows Mickey and Pluto in Brazil. Pluto gets tangled up with a playful armadillo, which joins them on the plane. Symbolic, no doubt, of the good neighbor policy. It yields many friendly laughs.

EDUCATION FOR DEATH (RKO—Walt Disney)

Considerable curiosity about this reel has been established by the earlier publication of the widely-read document of the same name. It shows the minds of German children being warped by the teaching of jungle values to replace civilized ones. Though the audience acquires a deep sense of uneasiness, the message doesn't smack as hard as it should. It's immensely difficult to stay on the baseline when doing this sort of thing in cartoons. The Disney technique causes the kids to be cute and the adults comic, which dilutes the spirit of the picture and modifies the message. Nevertheless, the conscious absence of comedy and the obvious sincerity makes it novel and distinctly worth while.

Monogram Studios Busy These Days

William Beaudine has been signed to direct the East Side Kids picture, "Grand Street Boys," at Monogram, and January 27 has been set as the starting date. Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz will produce, and the story, which will feature Leo Gorcey, Bobby Jordan, Huntz Hall and Gabriel Dell, was written by Harvey Gates.

Another service story has been added to Monogram's backlog of screen originals for production during the current season with the purchase of "Girls They Left Behind," written by Corliss Hayden.

Two Monogram pictures, "Continental Express" and "Shadows of the Underworld," have been booked for Hollywood first run at the Colony theatre, to follow the current two-week run of another Monogram pair, "Rhythm Parade" and "The Living Ghost." Barry K. Barnes and Valerie Hobson are featured in "Continental Express," while "Shadows of the Underworld" features John Loder and Rex Harrison.

Arthur Dreifuss has been signed to direct "Sarong Girl," which will star burlesque's Ann Corio in an original story by Charles R. Marion. Phil Krause and Sam Burkett will produce.

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Dear Reader:

Every once in a while a picture is released which stirs the heart of the world. Just now an English picture, "In Which We Serve," which is a tribute to the British Navy, is capturing the heart of the United States. The reception that "Wake Island" got in Canada is proof that patriotism today reflects the spirit of the United Nations and that it has no geographical limits.

Each of the United Nations has great names which symbolize the valor of its nurses, soldiers and civilians. Dunkirk will forever occupy a hallowed place in English history, just as Stalingrad is the proof of Russia's boundless courage and Dieppe gave the world an idea of the superb indifference to fear of the Canadian soldier.

Each nation shares the others joys and tragedies. That is why the name

'Corregidor'

has such universal appeal. Producers Releasing Corporation devoted arduous preparation and its finest talent to bringing this great American saga to the screen. I honestly feel that it has met its high responsibility well and that the film is a fitting tribute to the gallant nurses and soldiers who made

'Corregidor'

a highlight of United Nations history. I am proud to be able to offer this fine motion picture, which brings Elissa Landi back to the screen, to the exhibitor of Canada.

Yours truly,
HARRY ALLEN

Producers Releasing Corporation

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Industry Responds To Russ Aid Appeal

Reports reaching the office of the general chairman of the Motion Picture Committee of the Canadian Aid to Russia Fund, Herb Allen of Toronto, indicate that the results of the industry's effort will be one to make its members proud,

and reveal the busy way in which film men everywhere in the Dominion have applied themselves to the raising of funds for aid to our fighting ally. Not only have they put into practice the suggestions of the committee but many have shown clever examples of individual enterprise in instilling in the public a realization of the importance of contributing. Besides boosting the private drive of the film field, they have joined wholeheartedly in the civic and provincial campaigns.

Though no quotas were set for any territory nor a fixed assessment applied, exhibitors and circuit, exchange and theatre employees of every rank have been liberal, each coming forward with a relatively substantial contribution.

Quebec has been very active, the committee of exhibitors and exchange men consisting of E. Beaulac, W. Lester, B. A. Garson, W. Elman, H. Cass, H. F. Taylor, N. Lezans and C. S. Chaplin, secretary. Certain theatres were allocated to individuals carrying out the collection procedure and those acting are A. Hirsch, G. Ganatekos, E. Tabs, A. Adelman, D. Berzan, I. Rosenbloom, E. Gautier, J. Desève, E. Beaulac, W. Lester, B. A. Garson, N. Lezans and all exchange managers.

The Maritimes is also providing an enthusiastic response. The Nova Scotia organizer of the film end of the drive is R. S. Roddick of Halifax, who was appointed by W. H. Cuzner, president of the Allied Exhibitors of Nova Scotia, which body is intensely active, its members sparking the particular campaign in each centre of population where their theatres are located. Roddick is also chairman of the Halifax municipal campaign for the public appeal.

One of the finest efforts to swell Canadian Aid to Russia is being made by W. V. Cole of the Cole Theatres, located in Bellevue, Alta., Coleman, Alta., Blairmore, Alta., and Michel, B.C. Arrangements were made for the showing of "Moscow Strikes Back" for two days in each theatre at an admission price of \$1.00. The money derived through this will not go to the Motion Picture Committee but to the general collection throughout the Crow's Nest Pass territory, which Mr. Cole believes will set a proportionate record for the Dominion.

M. Bailey of the Strand, Dry-

den, Ontario, has tied "Moscow Strikes Back" in with the Rotary Club campaign in that town, which opens on January 18th. On January 26th D. J. Sandie of the Empire Theatre, Thessalon, Ontario, will run a benefit show, featuring "Sweetheart of the Campus" and "Our Russian Front."

In Winnipeg I. H. Allen, with the aid of local projectionists, is staging 16 mm. showings of Canada Carries On and the World in Action series wherever possible, all services and prints being donated and complete proceeds going to the fund. This is an idea worth imitating everywhere.

The Winnipeg Hungarian community shelled out \$50 for a hall showing of the shorts; a special Sunday show and dinner netted another \$700; and another special show and dinner at the Windsor Theatre brought \$103 to the fund. The running time was 40 minutes.

Harry Atkins of Kirkland Lake made \$165 for the fund through a Sunday show.

Camp Borden Military Theatre, with a seating capacity of 6,000, was the scene on January 17th of the Canadian premiere of Paramount's "Happy Go Lucky," the profits being turned in to the Aid to Russia Fund. Paramount do-

Archie Laurie Gets Silver Love and Xs

The staff of Esquire Films got off a real smart one on the boss, Archie Laurie, during the festive season, the news of which just leaked out now. A really novel idea it was too,

On Archie's desk right now is a silver loving cup with the following inscription:

SPECIAL AWARD
FOR BEST BOSS
OF 1942
to

A. J. LAURIE

A shield on the base carries the names of the staff members.

nated the print and Mrs. Saso, Barrie, Ontario, exhibitor, waived her right to the run, the camp being in her zone.

"Children in War," the Russian short, is booked solid for the next four weeks, 50 prints being in circulation. The rentals for the showing of this one-reeler go directly to the Motion Picture Committee. Esquire Films is distributing it gratis, Artikon passed up its share and Associated Screen News made the prints free.

Rubber stamps on poster, theatre and exchange literature; news-reel clips, lobby displays, ad slugs and other means are being used by theatres to inspire the public to contribute.

Every last cent turned into the Motion Picture Fund of the Aid to Russia Fund goes to the general fund, expenses for the industry drive being paid by the Motion Picture Pioneers War Services.



Lorne Green, CBC announcer and narrator of National Film Board short subjects, recently won the Eastern Division award of the National Broadcasting Company in the annual judging. Beside the H. B. Davis Memorial Announcer's Award, Lorne got a certificate and a ring with a ruby stone.

What did YOU do?

BY CANADIAN SHOWMEN FOR CANADIAN SHOWMEN

WHEN it came to the picture with the stenographer's war cry, "Take a Letter, Darling," John Kurk of the Royal, North Bay, figured rightly that the type-writer wreckers would have a special interest.

So John built up a teaser campaign, running snappy ads in the press and advising all stenogs to listen to their local radio station at a given time.

They did and learned of a radio contest tied in with the picture. The local station split the costs, which is nice promoting.

STUART SMART of the Capitol,

Port Hope, didn't take a chance on people missing his press ads on "Mrs. Miniver." He mailed window cards to all nearby hamlets. He also got the principals of the public and high schools to dismiss classes early one afternoon for a special matinee.

That's a real accomplishment. The kids were on his side too.

FOLK'S most placid moments come when they're eating. That's the time to catch 'em in good humor. So Ralph Tiede of the Community, Welland, handed out thousands of serviettes with special copy and illustrations on "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

There's nothing like good entertainment after an enjoyable meal. Good thinking.

Capt. Howard Fogg Writes Allies' Song

Captain Howard Fogg, who wrote original musical scores for Associated Screen News between 1933 and the time he joined the Veteran's Guard in 1940, has written a war march called "Allies' Fighting Song." It was given a national bow over a CBC hookup of the Army Show.

Howard, who was with the old Humbells, is now attached to the Directorate of Special War Services at National Defence Headquarters.

Movies' Wrong Word Says Jack Warner

According to a Hollywood Report, Jack Warner has asked his employees to refer to the cinema as motion pictures, in preference to "movies."

The idea isn't new. Thirty years ago the Motion Picture World carried on a campaign against the growing use of the popular description of today.



Wifely obedience to a husband's wishes cost Mrs. Frank Sinkwich and her sister movie careers. Mrs. Frank is the wife of the famous football star, who was in Los Angeles for the annual Rose Bowl game. A scout from Universal spotted the ladies, who used to be a dance team, and offered them a contract. The girls posed with Abbott and Costello. Hubby saw the picture and became angry at the amount of bare limb revealed by the missus. He put his foot down and that was the end of two movie careers before they even started. The girls are from Georgia. . . . Lee Tracy, who used to portray noisy reporters, has joined the USArmy as a military policeman.

A happier story of being discovered is that of 10-year-old Edna May Wonnacott. She was standing on a corner of a small California town waiting for a bus when the fattest man she ever saw asked her how she would like to be in the movies. The man was Alfred Hitchcock, on location with his company. The next day Edna May and her mom were taken to the set of "Shadow of a Doubt" and shared things with Teresa Wright and Macdonald Carey. . . . These days, if a Hollywood script calls for food, the words "if available" follow. That's why root beer is passed off as coffee. The days of gussy realism in food and banquet scenes are over.

The picture that led every best 10 list of the year's films is the English-made tribute to the British Navy, "In Which We Serve," soon to be released in Canada. Bosley Crowther, critic of the New York Times even went so far as to write that it was "the year's best film by such a margin" that "competition was incomprehensible." That's some praise. . . . There's a shortage of circus freaks in Hollywood. Some were sought for "Private Miss Jones" and couldn't be found. The midgets were working in defence plants, the bearded ladies were driving taxis and the human skeletons were now waiters!

Do you remember when the newspapers reported all the disapproval of Melvyn Douglas holding down a payless government job in Washington? Douglas enlisted in the last war as a boy. Now he has enlisted again, though over the age limit. He is married and has three dependents, each of which had to write a letter in his behalf. One of these was his 17-year-old son, who'll soon be drafted. . . . Charles Laughton did a nice thing the other day. Charles French, the Negro sailor who towed a raft with 19 torpedoed sailors to shore, stopped by and Charlie quit work to coach him for a radio speech he was about to make. . . . Two pictures being made in Hollywood at the moment are "Boy from Stalingrad" and "Girl from Leningrad" . . . Which reminds me, have you made your donation to the Aid to Russia Fund?"

Bette Davis and Miriam Hopkins are carrying on a feud that has everyone on edge. They're making a picture together. . . . An American paper printed an item reporting a romance between Tommy Riggs and Betty Lou. Betty Lou is Tommy Riggs dummy in his ventriloquist act! . . . Deanna Durbin and her studio are tiffing again. . . . Anne Shirley will make her first Technicolor picture, called "Gibson Girl" . . . George Brent will marry Ilona Massey when his divorce from Ann Sheridan is final. Massey just divorced Alan Curtis. Ilona is scheduled to appear in "Ziegfeld Girl."

Ned Sparks Back In Hollywood

Ned Sparks, the comedian from St. Thomas, Ont., who quit Hollywood to settle down in Toronto, is back there. He just finished a vaudeville tour, playing to packed houses everywhere.

Ned drew down a million dollars before he quit the Cinema City because he was tired, according to the press, of chiseling tactics, etc.

He starred in several presentations of the Ontario radio show, aimed at tourists, before it developed that he wasn't an air comic.



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